

Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 CPR-01 SY-05 NSC-05 PRS-01

SAM-01 SSO-00 SP-02 NSCE-00 /049 W

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P 080940Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6374

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BC, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT KHAMA'S TRAVEL: REQUEST FOR MEETING
WITH PRESIDENT FORD

1. PRESIDENT SIR SERETSE KHAMA AND LADY KHAMA WILL ATTEND COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE IN JAMAICA FROM APRIL 29 - MAY 6. PRESIDENT WILL VISIT AT LEAST ONE AND POSSIBLY TWO CARIBBEAN STATES FOLLOWING THE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MOGWE AND SECRETARY EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CHARLES TIBONE. TENTATIVE PLANS CALL FOR PRESIDENT SPEND ABOUT ONE WEEK IN LONDON FOR MEDICAL CHECK-UP BEGINNING AROUND APRIL 23.

2. COMMENT: PRESIDENT KHAMA IS ONE OF THE MOST PROMINENT AND RESPONSIBLE LEADERS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA; HE IS PLAYING A MAJOR ROLE IN WORKING FOR PEACEFUL CHANGE IN RHODESIA, NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA. KHAMA IS POPULAR AT HOME AND GAINING INFLUENCE IN OAU AND NON-ALIGNED CIRCLES. HE IS A STRONG PERSON HERE WITH A BRITISH LEGAL EDUCATION AND MAKES MANY IF NOT MOST FOREIGN POLICY DECISIONS ON THE BASIS OF HIS OWN JUDGMENTS. UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP BOTSWANA IS A MODEL OF ORDERLY GROWTH IN CONTRAST TO INCIPIENT INSURGENCY AND INSTABILITY IN MANY OTHER AFRICAN STATES. PRESIDENT

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KHAMA IS DEDICATED TO MULTI-RACIALISM AND HIS MAJOR AMBITION

IS TO DEMONSTRATE TO ALL THAT A FREE MULTI-RACIAL AND STABLE DEMOCRACY IS A REAL OPTION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. AS THE RECENT ELECTIONS CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED, BOTSWANA IS PROBABLY THE LAST PURE SURVIVOR OF WESTMINISTER DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA AND CAN CONTRIBUTE MUCH TO PEACEFUL CHANGE IN THIS AREA. THE COUNTRY DESERVES OUR SUPPORT.

3. I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO THE OVER-ALL INTEREST IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IF PRESIDENT KHAMA WERE INVITED TO MEET BRIEFLY (15-20 MINUTES) WITH PRESIDENT FORD FOLLOWING THE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE. PLEASE ADVISE.
BOLEN

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